

Serial No: 10/760,496
Attorney Docket No.: FS-F03224-01

Response to Office Action of August 16, 2006

Remarks

1. Amendments

By the present Amendment, claims 1, 10, and 15 have been amended, claims 33-34 have been added and claims 29-32 have been cancelled. Upon entry of the present Amendment, claims 1, 4-24, 26-28 and 33-34 will be pending in the application.

2. Comments

Paragraph 4: rejection of claims 1, 4-9, 22-24, 26 and 29-30 under 35 U.S.C. 102(a)

Claims 1, 4-9, 22-24, 26 and 29-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being unpatentable over the combination Okada et al (US 6,210,983), Oya et al (US 2002/0,048,732), Oya et al (US 2003/0,235,791) and Oyamada et al (US 2003/0,087,204).

Okada discloses a compound of the formula: X-L₁-D, wherein D is an electron donative group, X is an adsorption promoting group, and L₁ is a valence bond or linking group.

The electron donative group represented by D is preferably an amino group, a hydrazino group, a hydroxylamino group, a hydroxamic acid group, a semicarbazido group or ahydroxyl-semicarbazido. More preferably, X is an amino group, a hydrazino group or a semicarbazido group (column 5, lines 1-8). Specific examples in column 13-14 discloses compounds 7, 8 and 9 which contain a hydroxyurea group.

The compound of formula: X-L₁-D in Okada is a super-sensitizer which ensures sufficient super-sensitization effects in the red to infrared region, especially in the practically advantageous infrared region in the range of 750nm to 1400nm (column 3, lines 10-14, column 28, lines 19-20). Super-sensitization is defined as:

"A spectral sensitivity of a dye is increased on addition of a second substance. If the added material does not itself sensitize in the spectral region of the sensitizing dye, any increase in spectral sensitivity is clearly

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Attorney Docket No.: FS-F03224-01

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superadditive and the addendum may be said to supersensitize the sensitizer." (T.H. James, *The theory of the photographic process*, 4th edition, p.260A, 1977, Macmillan Pub. Co.)

The compound having an adsorption group and a reducing group in the present invention is represented by the following formula (I):

A-(W)_n-B formula (I)

wherein the reducing group represented by A is one selected from 1-phenyl-3-pyrazolidones.

The reducing group selected from 1-phenyl-3-pyrazolidones is not disclosed in Okada.

The compound having an adsorption group and a reducing group in the present invention is a chemical sensitizer, which increases sensitivity notwithstanding the presence or absence of sensitizing dye. Examples 1 to 3 in the present application disclose the effect of the compound in the absence of sensitizing dye. The compound No.71 having a 1-phenyl-3-pyrazolidone group as a reducing group in the present invention improves raw stock storability and image stability such as print-out resistance.

Therefore, Okada does not disclose or suggest the object of the invention, and also does not disclose the compound having an adsorption group and a reducing group in the present invention.

The development accelerator represented by formulae (1), (2) and (3) in the present invention is not disclosed or suggested in Okada.

Oya et al '732 discloses the development accelerator represented by formulae (1) and (2), Oya '791 discloses a compound represented by formulae (2) and (3) and Oyamada '204 discloses the development accelerator represented by formulae (2) and (3).

However, Oya '732, Oya '791 and Oyamada '204 do not disclose or suggest a compound having an adsorption group and a reducing group in the present invention. Further there is no motivation to combine these references with the Okada reference. Even if the references could be validly combined, the combination of Okada '983, Oya

Serial No: 10/760,496
Attorney Docket No.: FS-F03224-01

Response to Office Action of August 16, 2006

'732, Oya'791 and Oyamada '204 still does not teach or suggest the present invention. Therefore it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Paragraph 5: rejection of claims 10-14 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 10-14 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C.103(a) as being unpatentable over Okada '983 in combination with Tsuzuki et al (US 5,677,121) and EP 1096310A2 (EP'310).

As discussed above, Okada '983 does not disclose or suggest the compound having an adsorption group and a reducing group as in the present invention.

Tsuzuki '121 and EP '310 also do not disclose or suggest the compound having an adsorption group and a reducing group in the present invention.

Therefore, the combination of Okada '983, Tsuzuki '121 and EP '310 would not result in the present invention. There is no suggestion to modify one or more references to obtain the present invention or render it obvious. It is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Paragraph 6: rejection of claims 15-21, 28, 31-32 under 35 U.S.C.103(a)

Claims 15-21, 28, 31-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Okada '983 and Fukui et al.(US 2002/0102502A1).

As discussed above, Okada does not teach or suggest the compound having an adsorption group and a reducing group in the present invention.

Fukui '502 discloses a compound contained in the development accelerator represented by formula (2) in the present invention, but does not disclose or suggest the compound having an adsorption group and a reducing group in the present invention

Therefore, the combination of Okada and Fukui does not teach or suggest the present invention. It is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Serial No: 10/760,496
Attorney Docket No.: FS-F03224-01

Response to Office Action of August 16, 2006

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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